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APPLICATION NO.	FI	LING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
10/019,155	10/25/2001		Jens Erik Sorensen	52-170	52-170 4326	
22653	7590	01/14/2005		EXAMINER		
EDWARD W CALLAN NO. 705 PMB 452				CHOJNACKI, MELLISSA M		
3830 VALLEY CENTRE DRIVE				ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
SAN DIEGO, CA 92130				2164		

DATE MAILED: 01/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

÷	Application No.	Applicant(s)				
	10/019,155	SORENSEN ET AL.				
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit				
	Mellissa M Chojnacki	2164				
The MAILING DATE of this communication app	1	correspondence address				
Period for Reply						
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPL' THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.1 after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a repl - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period of Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).	36(a). In no event, however, may a reply be ti y within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) da will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS fron a, cause the application to become ABANDONI	mely filed ys will be considered timely. n the mailing date of this communication. ED (35 U.S.C. § 133).				
Status						
1)⊠ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>06 Jt</u>	uly 2004.					
2a) ☐ This action is FINAL . 2b) ☑ This	action is non-final.					
Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is						
closed in accordance with the practice under E	closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.					
Disposition of Claims	•					
4) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdray 5) Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected. 7) Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/o	wn from consideration.					
Application Papers						
9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examine	eг.					
10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.						
Applicant may not request that any objection to the	• • •	• •				
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correct 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Ex	•					
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119						
12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority document 2. Certified copies of the priority document 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority application from the International Bureau	s have been received. s have been received in Applicat rity documents have been receiv u (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).	cion No red in this National Stage				
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list	of the certified copies not receive	ed. Shull				
		SAM RIMELL				
Attachment(s)		PRIMARY EXAMINER				
 Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 	4)					
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/29/2004.		Patent Application (PTO-152)				

DETAILED ACTION

Remarks

1. In response to communications filed on July 06, 2004, claims 1-24 are presently pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- 2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
 - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 3. Claims1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith III et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0036947) in view of Boone (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0078152), in further view of Boulton et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,566,291).

As to claim 1, <u>Smith III et al.</u> teaches a method of organizing ideas in a computer database (See abstract; paragraph 0047), comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas (See abstract; paragraph 0024; paragraph 0034).

Smith III et al. does not teach including positive comments and negative comments; systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a displayed negative comment, to contribute a positive comment for entry into the database by using a given computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution.

Boone teaches a method and apparatus for providing predefined feedback (See abstract), in which he teaches including positive comments and negative comments (See paragraph 0010, lines 3-11); (b) systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a displayed negative comment, to contribute a positive comment for entry into the database by using a given computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution (See paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified <u>Smith III et al.</u>, to include including positive comments and negative comments; systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a displayed negative comment, to contribute a positive comment for entry into the database by using a given computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Smith III et al., by the teachings of Boone because including positive comments and negative comments; systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a displayed negative comment, to contribute a positive comment for entry into the database by using a given computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution would provide the buyer/contributor and seller/inventor with a feedback forum in which either user can leave comments about the other that may be of use to other users in the future in

deciding whether to bid or sell from a particular user (See <u>Boone</u>, paragraph 009, lines 1-5).

Smith III et al. as modified, still does not teach (c) providing a bi-directional access link between the display of the negative comment and a display of the contributed positive comment.

Boulton et al. teaches a method and apparatus for implementing user feedback (See abstract), in which he teaches (c) providing a bi-directional access link between the display of the negative comment and a display of the contributed positive comment (See abstract; column 11, lines 34-44).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified <u>Smith III et al.</u> as modified, to include (c) providing a bi-directional access link between the display of the negative comment and a display of the contributed positive comment.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified <u>Smith III et al.</u> as modified, by the teachings of <u>Boulton et al.</u> because (c) providing a bi-directional access link between the display of the negative comment and a display of the contributed positive comment would provide easy, quick feedback opportunities as the user is learning or using the provided product or service (See Boulton et al., column 3, lines 47-58).

As to claim 2, <u>Smith III et al.</u> as modified, teaches wherein step (b) comprises the step of:

(d) systematically providing on a display screen displaying the given form element an indication that the given form element is for entry of a positive comment (See Smith III et al., abstract; paragraph 006; paragraph 0034; also see Boone, paragraph 0011; paragraph 0051).

As to claims 3 and 21 <u>Smith III et al.</u> as modified, teaches wherein step (b) comprises the step of:

(e) systematically providing on a display screen displaying the given form element an instruction to enter only a positive comment in the given form element (See Smith III et al., abstract; paragraph 006; paragraph 0034; also see Boone, paragraph 0011; paragraph 009, lines 5-8; paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0051);

(e) systematically providing on a display screen displaying the given form element an instruction to enter only a positive comment in the given form element (See Boone, paragraph 009, lines 5-8; paragraph 0010, lines 1-11).

wherein step (b) comprises the step of:

As to claim 4, <u>Smith III et al.</u> as modified, teaches systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a display of the contributed positive comment, to contribute a negative comment for entry into the database by using a computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution (See <u>Smith III</u> et al., abstract; paragraph 006; paragraph 0034; also see Boone, paragraph 0010, lines

1-11; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11); and

(e) providing a bi-directional access link between the display of the contributed positive comment and a display of the contributed negative comment (See <u>Boulton et al.</u>, abstract; column 11, lines 34-44; also see <u>Boone</u>, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11).

As to claims 5, and 16 Smith III et al. as modified, teaches wherein the contributed positive comment is also responsive to another negative comment in the database (See Smith III et al., abstract; paragraph 006; paragraph 0034; also see Boone, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11) the method further comprising the step of:

(d) providing a bi-directional access link between a display of the contributed positive comment and a display of the other negative comment (See <u>Boulton et al.</u>, column 11, lines 34-44; also see <u>Boone</u>, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11);

wherein the contributed positive comment is also responsive to another negative comment in the database (See Smith III et al., abstract; paragraph 006; paragraph 0034; also see Boone, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11), and wherein the instructions further cause the computer system to perform the step of:

(d) providing a bi-directional access link between a display of the contributed positive comment and a ,display of the other negative comment (See <u>Boulton et al.</u>, abstract; column 11, lines 34-44; also see <u>Boone</u>, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11).

As to claim 6, <u>Smith III et al.</u> teaches a method of organizing ideas in a computer database (See abstract; paragraph 0047), comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas (See abstract; paragraph 0024; paragraph 0034).

Boulton et al. does not teach including positive comments and negative comments; systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a displayed positive comment, to contribute a negative comment for entry into the database by using a given computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution.

Boone teaches a method and apparatus for providing predefined feedback (See abstract), in which he teaches including positive comments and negative comments (See paragraph 0010, lines 3-11); systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a displayed positive comment, to contribute a negative comment for entry into the database by using a given computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution (See paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified <u>Smith III et al.</u>, to include including positive comments and negative comments; systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a displayed positive comment, to contribute a negative comment for entry into the database by using a given computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Smith III et al., by the teachings of Boone because including positive comments and negative comments; systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a displayed positive comment, to contribute a negative comment for entry into the database by using a given computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution would provide the buyer/contributor and seller/inventor with a feedback forum in which either user can leave comments about the other that may be of use to other users in the future in deciding whether to bid or sell from a particular user (See Boone, paragraph 009, lines 1-5).

Smith III et al. as modified, still does not teach (c) providing a bi-directional access link between the display of the positive comment and a display of the contributed negative comment.

Boulton et al. teaches a method and apparatus for implementing user feedback (See abstract), in which he teaches (c) providing a bi-directional access link between

the display of the positive comment and a display of the contributed negative comment (See abstract; column 11, lines 34-44).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified <u>Smith III et al.</u> as modified, to include (c) providing a bi-directional access link between the display of the positive comment and a display of the contributed negative comment.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified <u>Smith III et al.</u> as modified, by the teachings of <u>Boulton et al.</u> because (c) providing a bi-directional access link between the display of the positive comment and a display of the contributed negative comment would provide easy, quick feedback opportunities as the user is learning or using the provided product or service (See Boulton et al., column 3, lines 47-58).

As to claim 7, <u>Smith III et al.</u> as modified, teaches wherein step (b) comprises the step of:

(d) systematically providing on a display screen displaying the given form element an indication that the given form element is for entry of a negative comment (See Smith III et al., abstract; paragraph 006; paragraph 0034; also see Boone, paragraph 0011; paragraph 0051).

As claim 8 and 20, <u>Smith III et al.</u> as modified, teaches wherein step (b) comprises the step of (e) systematically providing on a display screen displaying the

given form element an instruction to enter only a negative comment in the given form element (See Smith III et al., abstract; paragraph 006; paragraph 0034; also see Boone, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11).

As claim 9, Smith III et al. as modified, teaches systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a display of the contributed negative comment, to contribute a positive comment for entry into the database by using a computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution (Smith III et al., abstract; paragraph 006; paragraph 0034; also see Boone, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11); and providing a bi-directional access link between the display of the contributed negative comment and a display of the contributed positive comment (See Smith III et al., abstract; paragraph 006; paragraph 0034; also see Boone, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0011; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7; paragraph 51; paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11).

As claim 10, <u>Smith III et al.</u> as modified, teaches wherein the contributed negative comment is also responsive to another positive comment in the database (See <u>Smith III et al.</u>, abstract; paragraph 006; paragraph 0034; also see <u>Boone</u>, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11), the method further comprising the step of:

(d) providing a bi-directional access link between a display of the contributed negative comment and a display of the other positive comment (See <u>Boulton et al.</u>, abstract; column 11, lines 34-44; also see <u>Boone</u>, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11).

As to claims 11 and 22, <u>Smith III et al.</u> as modified, teaches, wherein step (d) comprises the step of

(e) directing the contributor of the contributed comment, to provide the link recited in step (d) by using a given computer-displayed button (See <u>Boone</u>, paragraph 0051, lines 19-29).

As to claims 12 and 23, <u>Smith III et al.</u> as modified, teaches, enabling both comments to be displayed simultaneously in a common screen display (See <u>Boone</u>, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11).

As to claims 13 and 24 Smith III et al. as modified, teaches wherein the positive comments include solution ideas and the negative comments include problem ideas (See Smith III et al., paragraph 0032, lines 5-9; paragraph 0040, lines 1-4; paragraph 0045, lines 1-3; paragraph 0050, lines 1-8; paragraph 0078, lines 1-12, where "comments" is read on "contributions").

As to claim 14, <u>Smith III et al.</u> teaches a computer readable storage medium (media), comprising computer executable instructions for causing a computer system to organize ideas in a computer database (See abstract; paragraph 0047), wherein the instructions cause the computer system to perform the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas, including positive comments and negative comments (See abstract; paragraph 0024; paragraph 0034).

Smith III et al. does not teach systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a displayed negative comment, to contribute a positive comment for entry into the database by using a given computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution.

Boone teaches a method and apparatus for providing predefined feedback (See abstract), in which he teaches systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a displayed negative comment, to contribute a positive comment for entry into the database by using a given computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution (See paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified <u>Smith III et al.</u>, to include systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a displayed negative comment, to contribute a positive comment for entry into the database by using a given computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Smith III et al., by the teachings of Boone because systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a displayed negative comment, to contribute a positive comment for entry into the database by using a given computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution would provide the buyer/contributor and seller/inventor with a feedback forum in which either user can leave comments about the other that may be of use to other users in the future in deciding whether to bid or sell from a particular user (See Boone, paragraph 009, lines 1-5).

Smith III et al. as modified, still does not teach (c) providing a bi-directional access link between the display of the negative comment and a display of the contributed positive comment.

Boulton et al. teaches a method and apparatus for implementing user feedback (See abstract), in which he teaches (c) providing a bi-directional access link between the display of the negative comment and a display of the contributed positive comment (See abstract; column 11, lines 34-44).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified <u>Smith III et al.</u> as modified, to include (c) providing a bi-directional access link between the display of the negative comment and a display of the contributed positive comment.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified <u>Smith III et al.</u> as modified, by the teachings of

Boulton et al. because (c) providing a bi-directional access link between the display of the negative comment and a display of the contributed positive comment would provide easy, quick feedback opportunities as the user is learning or using the provided product or service (See Boulton et al., column 3, lines 47-58).

As claim 15, <u>Smith III et al.</u> as modified, teaches wherein the instructions further cause the computer system to perform the steps of:

- (d) systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a display of the contributed positive comment, to contribute a negative comment for entry into the database by using a computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution (See <u>Boone</u>, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11); and
- (e) providing a bi-directional access link between the display of the contributed positive comment and a display of the contributed negative comment (See See <u>Boulton</u> et al., abstract; column 11, lines 34-44; also see <u>Boone</u>, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11).

As to claim 17, <u>Smith III et al.</u> teaches a computer readable storage medium (media), comprising computer executable instructions for causing a computer system to organize ideas in a computer database (See abstract; paragraph 0047), wherein the instructions cause the computer system to perform the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas, including positive comments and negative comments (See abstract; paragraph 0024; paragraph 0034).

Smith III et al. does not teach systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a displayed positive comment, to contribute a negative comment for entry into the database by using a given computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution.

Boone teaches a method and apparatus for providing predefined feedback (See abstract), in which he teaches systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a displayed positive comment, to contribute a negative comment for entry into the database by using a given computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution (See paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified <u>Smith III et al.</u>, to include systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a displayed positive comment, to contribute a negative comment for entry into the database by using a given computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified <u>Smith III et al.</u>, by the teachings of <u>Boone</u> because systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a displayed positive comment, to contribute a negative comment for entry into the database by using a given computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the

contribution would provide the buyer/contributor and seller/inventor with a feedback forum in which either user can leave comments about the other that may be of use to other users in the future in deciding whether to bid or sell from a particular user (See Boone, paragraph 009, lines 1-5).

Smith III et al. as modified, still does not teach (c) providing a bi-directional access link between the display of the positive comment and a display of the contributed negative comment.

Boulton et al. teaches a method and apparatus for implementing user feedback (See abstract), in which he teaches (c) providing a bi-directional access link between the display of the positive comment and a display of the contributed negative comment (See abstract; column 11, lines 34-44).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified <u>Smith III et al.</u> as modified, to include (c) providing a bi-directional access link between the display of the positive comment and a display of the contributed negative comment.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified <u>Smith III et al.</u> as modified, by the teachings of <u>Boulton et al.</u> because (c) providing a bi-directional access link between the display of the positive comment and a display of the contributed negative comment would provide easy, quick feedback opportunities as the user is learning or using the provided product or service (See <u>Boulton et al.</u>, column 3, lines 47-58).

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As claim 18, <u>Smith III et al.</u> as modified, teaches wherein the instructions further cause the computer system to perform the steps of:

- (d) systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a display of the contributed negative comment, to contribute a positive comment for entry into the database by using a computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution (See <u>Boone</u>, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11; also see <u>Boulton et al.</u>, abstract; column 11, lines 34-44); and
- (e) providing a bi-directional access link between the display of the contributed negative comment and a display of the contributed positive comment (See <u>Boone</u>, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11; also see <u>Boulton et al.</u>, abstract; column 11, lines 34-44).

As to claim 19, <u>Smith III et al.</u> as modified, teaches wherein the contributed negative comment is also responsive to another positive comment in the database (See <u>Saito et al.</u>, page 6, claim 1, where the phrase "other users' comment" inherently encompass any type of comment from the user, which would include negative, positive or neutral comments". Also see pages 48-49, paragraph 0062, lines 1-29; pages 49-50, paragraph 0063, lines 1-9; also see <u>Boone</u>, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11), and wherein the instructions further cause the computer system to perform the step of:

(d) providing a bi-directional access link between a display of the contributed negative comment and a display of the other positive comment; herein step (b) comprises the step of: (e) systematically providing on a display screen displaying the given form element an instruction to enter only a negative comment in the given form element (See Boone, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed on July 06,2004, for the application filed 25-October-2001, with respect to the rejected claims in view of the cited references have been fully considered but they are most in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mellissa M Chojnacki whose telephone number is (571) 272-4076. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici can be reached on (571) 272-4083. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mmc January 7, 2005

> SAM RIMELL PRIMARY EXAMINER